

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 24-26 are currently pending and have been rejected. By this Amendment, claim 9 is cancelled and claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 25, and 26 are amended.

Priority

With this Amendment and Response, Applicants submit a translation of the Japanese priority papers in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.55. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Figures 16-18 have been amended by the addition of reference numbers from the disclosure.

Objections to the Specification

The specification has been objected to because, as the Office Action asserts, FIGS. 16-18 do not include reference number 37 which is disclosed in the specification. By this Amendment, Applicants submit an amended FIG. 18 which includes reference number 37. Basis for this amendment is found throughout the specification and specifically at page 19, lines 2-6. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objections to the specification that assert that the specification refers to reference number 37 in the descriptions of FIGS. 16 and 17. In the specification at page 18, line 19 - page 19, line 2, the description of FIG. 16 refers to reference number 35, and the description of FIG. 17 refers to reference number 36. There is no mention of a reference number 37 in FIGS. 16 and 17 in this portion of description of FIGS. 16 and 17. Applicants believe that the remainder of the specification is consistent in this regard.

To maintain consistency with FIG. 18, as amended, Applicants submit amended FIGS. 16 and 17. FIG. 16 is amended to include reference number 35, and FIG. 17 is amended to include reference number 36. Basis for these amendments is

found throughout the specification and specifically at page 18, line 19 - page 19, line 2. No new matter has been added.

Based on the amendments to the figures, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 citing Harada

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al. (E.P. 0901094 A2) (hereinafter "Harada") in view of one or more other references. (See Office Action, page 6, Item 7; page 13, Item 11; page 16, Item 13; page 19, Item 15; page 21, Item 17). Applicant is enclosing a verified translation for Applicant's priority document JP 10/281772 (dated October 2, 1998). Harada, however, was published on March 3, 1999. As Applicant's priority document precedes the publication date of the cited reference, withdrawal of the rejections based on the Harada reference is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 citing Proehl

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Perlin and Young and further in view of Proehl. (U.S. 6,577,350) (See Office Action, page 10, Item 9). Applicant is enclosing a verified translation for Applicant's priority document JP 10/281772 (dated October 2, 1998). Proehl, however, was filed on December 21, 1998. As Applicant's priority document precedes the filing date of the Proehl reference, withdrawal of the rejection based on the Proehl reference is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The present invention relates to an electronic program guide (EPG) in which is displayed predetermined channels over a predetermined time frame. In response to a zoom command, the EPG provides EPG information of the channels or time frames larger or smaller in number than channels or time frames displayed immediately before the zoom command is provided. Contents of the EPG are assigned priorities.

An amount of information depending upon the degree of zooming and the assigned priorities is displayed in the EPG.

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 16, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niijima et al. (U.S. 5,926,230) (hereinafter "Niijima") in view of Perlin et al. (U.S. 5,341,466) (hereinafter "Perlin") and Young (U.S. 5,949,954). (See Office Action, page 3, Item 6). Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Niijima in view of Perlin, Young, and Davis et al. (U.S. 5,559,548) (hereinafter "Davis"). (See Office Action, page 9, Item 8). Claims 12, 13, 15, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Niijima in view of Perlin, Young, and further in view of Lemmons et al. (U.S. 5,880,768) (hereinafter "Lemmons"). (See Office Action, page 11, Item 10). Claims 12, 13, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Niijima in view of Perlin, Young, and further in view of Legall et al. (U.S. 6,005,565) (hereinafter "Legall"). (See Office Action, page 15, Item 12). Claims 18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Niijima in view of Perlin, Young, and further in view of Schein et al. (U.S. 6,133,909) (hereinafter "Schein"). (See Office Action, page 18, Item 14). Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Niijima in Oosterhout et al. (U.S. 6,405,371) (hereinafter "Oosterhout"). (See Office Action, page 20, Item 16). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Niijima discloses a transmission apparatus for transmitting a plurality of programs of different broadcasting channels. (See col. 5, lines 30-32; FIG. 3). The transmission apparatus includes an archiving section 52 that produces a plurality of screens for program selection. (See col. 5, lines 32-44; col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 11). The plurality of screens for program selection are arranged into a multi-screen, and the transmission apparatus transmits a plurality of these multi-screens. (See col. 5, lines 37-44; col. 8, lines 42-60). A reception apparatus, e.g. front end circuit 20 or parabola antenna 3, receives the plurality of multi-screens, extracts the plurality of screens for program selection from each multi-screen, and stores them into a virtual screen. (See col. 5, lines 45-64; col. 10, lines 14-21; FIGS. 1, 3, 11A).

A selection area can be determined by which a portion of the virtual screen is displayed on a display apparatus. (See col. 6, lines 46-54). FIGS. 1D and 5 illustrate a selection area that indicates which reduced screens in the virtual screen (or virtual frame memory) are displayed. (See col. 6, lines 47-64; col. 10, lines 1-32). The selection area may be moved or scrolled so as to select a different multi-screen portion of the virtual screen to view. (See col. 6, lines 47-55; col. 21, lines 54-64; FIG. 19). Each of the screens in the multi-screen provides a reduced video of the corresponding program. (See col. 19, lines 42-47).

Perlin discloses a computer system that implements a fractal interface. FIGS. 2-5 illustrate an example of the magnification of text displayed on a screen of a computer system that implements the fractal interface. (See col. 10, lines 15-47).

Young discloses a system that allows a television viewer to access television program listings on a television screen and to use the program listings to control the operation of a VCR. (See col. 1, lines 15-19). The system includes a series of menu screens 10, 12, 14, etc. illustrated in FIGS. 1-7. (See col. 4, lines 40-43). Screen 12, illustrated in FIG. 2, includes a plurality of cells which contain program information (such as the title) for a plurality of channels and a plurality of columns that provide time information for the listed programs. (See col. 4, lines 40-43; FIG. 2). Screens 10, 12, 14, etc. may be scrolled up or down to reveal program information about other channels. (See col. 7, lines 8-11).

In relation to FIG. 13, Young discloses a tape index screen 76 that provides a directory for a recording tape. (See col. 8, lines 35-37). Screen 76 displays the list of titles of programs recorded on the tape, the duration of the recorded programs, etc. (See col. 8, lines 43-57). The directory may be stored in a non-volatile memory rather than on the recording tape. (See col. 9, lines 24-31).

Davis discloses an electronic program schedule system that displays program listings in a series of screens. (See col. 5, lines 20-22; col. 8, lines 51-55). In a first screen displaying program listings, the system displays information for a set number of programs and time frames. (See col. 9, lines 3-13, 27-29). After the first screen has been displayed for a set amount of time, the system replaces the first screen

with a new screen of information about a different set of channels. (See col. 9, lines 27-35). This removes the need for a user to scroll through the program listings. (See col. 9, lines 35-38).

Lemmons describes an interactive program guide system and related processes which can automatically tune a television, or program a VCR, based on program selections made from program schedule information displayed on a television or other suitable video monitor. The interactive program guide is preferably implemented using a microprocessor-controlled set-top box that is coupled to the viewer's television set. The set-top box receives program schedule information and software from a headend telecasting center. Preferably, program schedule information for the current day and at least six subsequent days is stored in a memory within the set-top box. The interactive program guide provides a display mode for allowing the viewer to apply a restrictive search selection criterion and a nonrestrictive sort attribute to the program schedule information. FIG. 3 discloses a program guide screen 100 that is displayed on display 84. (See col. 8, lines 42-43). Program guide screen 100 displays program schedule information in a grid format (program grid 112). (See col. 8, lines 45-47). A user may scroll the program grid 112 to view program schedule information for channels or times not displayed on the display. (See col. 10, lines 35-49).

Legall discloses a search tool and a display for providing an electronic program guide such as EPG 220. (See col. 2, lines 38-44; FIG. 2). The electronic program guide is updated after a search is conducted. (See col. 3, lines 43-47).

Schein discloses a scrollable television schedule guide. (See col. 4, lines 34-35).

Oosterhout discloses an electronic program guide with a "zoom" button. (See col. 3, lines 33-37). When the "zoom" button is selected, the EPG selects for display a quadrant of a larger mosaic screen. (See col. 5, lines 9-14).

Argument

Applicants' invention, as recited by amended claim 1 includes features (many of which were in **claim 9**) which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely the steps of:

assigning priorities to items representing contents of said EPG information, said contents including title, genre, broadcasting mode, channel, and program detail information,

based on an order of said assigned priorities, **selecting which of said items are to be displayed** and determining in what order said items are to be displayed,

selectively displaying, in said EPG information, said selected items in said determined order **in accordance with said magnification of the zoom command**
(emphasis added).

The above-quoted portion of claim 1 recites that the contents of the EPG information are **assigned priorities**. The contents include title, genre, broadcasting mode, channel, and program detail information. A selection of which items are to be displayed - and in what order - is made depending upon the assigned priorities. The selected items are then displayed. This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 27, line 9 - page 28, line 17. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner, in reviewing claim 9 at page 10, recognized that "Niijima, Perlin, and Young are silent on displaying items based on priority." The Examiner cites Davis for disclosing priorities. Davis does disclose that different numbers of channels and time slots may be displayed but is silent as to the assignment of priorities. (See col. 9, lines 9-11). With regard to FIGS. 5b and 5c, Davis discloses that, if fewer time slots are displayed in the electronic program schedule, **the size of the text** in each time slot may be enlarged so as to improve readability of the display. (See col. 9, lines 9-13). Davis does not describe a selection procedure by which a determination is made as to **which EPG information will be included** in the electronic program schedule and **which will be excluded**. Therefore, Davis does not disclose "**assigning priorities to items** representing contents of said EPG

information" or "based on an order of said assigned priorities, **selecting which of said items are to be displayed** and determining in what order said items are to be displayed," as recited by claim 1.

Davis in fact teaches away from using priorities to determine which EPG information is displayed because if fewer channels or time slots are displayed, the **size** of EPG text may be increased so that **all material may be displayed in the schedule**. (See col. 9, lines 11-13). Davis does not suggest a **zoom feature** of the electronic program schedule which may be operated by a user to zoom in or out EPG information. Therefore, **all information is displayed at all times** in the electronic program schedule described in Davis, and Davis does not disclose "**selectively displaying, in said EPG information, said selected items** in said determined order **in accordance with said magnification of the zoom command**, a required by claim 1. Accordingly, Davis does not disclose or suggest the above-quoted features of claim 1.

Lemmons does not disclose the above-quoted features of claim 1. As described above, in FIG. 3 Lemmons discloses a scrollable program guide screen 100 that is displayed on display 84. (See col. 8, lines 42-43). Lemmons does not disclose that program guide screen 100 may be zoomed in or out. Additionally, Lemmons does not disclose "**assigning priorities to items** representing contents of said EPG information" or "based on an order of said assigned priorities, **selecting which of said items are to be displayed** and determining in what order said items are to be displayed" or "**selectively displaying, in said EPG information, said selected items** in said determined order **in accordance with said magnification of the zoom command**." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Lemmons does not provide the features that are missing from Nijima.

Legall does not disclose the above-quoted features of claim 1. Legall discloses a search tool and a display for providing an electronic program guide such as EPG 220. (See col. 2, lines 38-44; FIG. 2). The electronic program guide is updated after a search is conducted. (See col. 3, lines 43-47). Legall does not disclose that EPG 220 may be zoomed in or out. Additionally, Legall does not disclose "**assigning priorities to items** representing contents of said EPG information" or "based on an order of said assigned priorities, **selecting which of said items are to be displayed** and determining in what order said items are to be displayed" or

"selectively displaying, in said EPG information, said selected items in said determined order **in accordance with said magnification of the zoom command."** Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Legall does not provide the features that are missing from Niijima.

Schein does not disclose the above-quoted features of claim 1. Schein discloses a scrollable television schedule guide. (See col. 4, lines 34-35). Schein does not disclose that EPG 220 may be zoomed in or out. Additionally, Schein does not disclose **"assigning priorities to items** representing contents of said EPG information" or "based on an order of said assigned priorities, **selecting which of said items are to be displayed** and determining in what order said items are to be displayed" or **"selectively displaying, in said EPG information, said selected items** in said determined order **in accordance with said magnification of the zoom command."** Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Schein does not provide the features that are missing from Niijima.

Finally, Oosterhout does not disclose the above-quoted features of claim 1. As described above, Oosterhout discloses an electronic program guide with a "zoom" button. (See col. 3, lines 33-37). When the "zoom" button is selected, the EPG selects for display a quadrant of a larger mosaic screen. (See col. 5, lines 9-14). Oosterhout does not disclose **"assigning priorities to items** representing contents of said EPG information" or "based on an order of said assigned priorities, **selecting which of said items are to be displayed** and determining in what order said items are to be displayed" or **"selectively displaying, in said EPG information, said selected items** in said determined order **in accordance with said magnification of the zoom command."** Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Oosterhout does not provide the features that are missing from Niijima.

Applicants claimed invention facilitates the navigation of an EPG and the display of EPG information. It is because claim 1 includes the above-quoted features that the above-identified advantages are achieved. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 24 include all of the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Application No.: 09/806,651
Amendment Dated: April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: January 24, 2006

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Claim 25, although not identical to claim 1, includes features that are similar to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 25 and claim 26 which depends from claim 25 are patentable over the art of record.

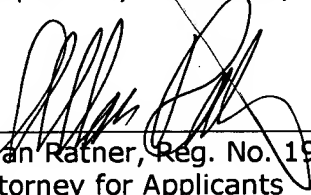
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Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Figures 16, 17, 18 (3 sheets)
Translation of Priority Document JP 10-281772
with Certificate of Verification

Dated: April 24, 2006

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Amendment Dated: April 24, 2006
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 16, 17, and 18.
These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachments